



## Rueben Ruff

December 3, 1922 - May 30, 2009

Rueben Harold Ruff, 86, lifelong area resident and member of a Columbia Basin pioneer family, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2009 at his home in Moses Lake. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Friday, June 5, 2009 at the Moses Lake First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Dale Novasky and Pastor Deverett Butrick officiating. Interment will follow at Pioneer Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel and Crematory, Moses Lake. You may sign the guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com)

Rueben was born in Ruff, Washington, December 3, 1922, son of John and Pauline (Schmauder) Ruff, German-Russian farmers, who homesteaded in Ruff, Washington. He began his education at a one room school house in Ruff and later attended classes at a school in Wheeler before graduating from Central High School in Neppel. Throughout his youth and young adult years he helped on the family farm in Ruff. He was married to Darlene Ramm on August 21, 1949 at the Ruff Congregational Church where his parents had been married years before. They continued to live and farm in Ruff for many years. They later purchased other farm land twelve miles northeast of Moses Lake, where they lived and farmed for the next thirty-five years. Following his retirement from farming in the late 1980's they moved into Moses Lake where they have lived since. In addition to running his own farm he did custom harvesting in the area, worked at the U & I Sugar Plant for several years,

drove school bus for the Moses Lake School District and taught Agriculture at Big Bend Community College when the class was held at one of the hangers at the Ephrata Airport. In his down time, he enjoyed tinkering and building things, including items of furniture, many of which are still used by family members.

Rueben and Darlene are former members and served as deacons of the Pilgrim Congregational Church and the Moses Lake Presbyterian Church, past members of the Lakeview Missionary Church and currently attending the Evangelical Methodist Church. Rueben was a member of the Grant County Historical Society and enjoyed the time spent building many of their floats over the years.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly sixty years, Darlene Ruff, Moses Lake; two daughters, Ruby Keenan, Othello, Connie Kast, Moses Lake; three grandchildren, Lana (Felipe) Keenan Martinez, Kasey Allen Kast and Desiree (Spc. Scott) Sunford; two great grandchildren, Madison Martinez and Maddox Martinez; two brothers, Robert Ruff and Edwin Ruff, both of Moses Lake; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His parents; two brothers; Walter and Raymond; one sister, Esther Ruff; two sons-in-law, Keith Kast and George Keenan; and two grandchildren, Echo Marie Kast and Kyle Kelly Keenan, preceded him in death.

Reuben Ruff was a well liked and loved man in the community.. He was a loving husband and father. He was a joy to his numerous grandkids and great grandkids. He had numerous talents from working the fields to his craftsmanship. Although his hands were calloused they were gentle and kind. A final comment from his son-in-law Spc. Scott Sunford, "It seems appropriate though. He went working and he had fresh dirt under his finger nails. Like a real farmer."

Memorial may be made to a charity of donor's choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 4. 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

## Service

JUN 5. 2:00 PM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church  
1142 W. Ivy  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ You were the best Great-Grandpa a kid could ask for. I'll miss you and so will Maddox.  
Love,  
Madison and Maddox Martinez###imported-begin##Madison Ellecia Martinez###imported-end##

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June 03, 2009 at 01:32 AM



“ I want to express my sympathy to the Ruff family ..I had the pleasure of knowing Ruben and Darlene when I was Dr Hart's nurse...thoughts are with all of you through this difficult time###imported-begin##Theresa McGhuey###imported-end##

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June 03, 2009 at 01:00 AM



“ Our very special Uncle will be truly missed. We have many treasured memories to hold dear to our hearts forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.###imported-begin##John & Cheryl Guffey###imported-end##

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June 02, 2009 at 10:12 PM



“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers. May you treasure the good memories and keep them close to your heart. Rueben was a wonderful man and a dear uncle.###imported-begin##Lisa Ruff###imported-end##

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June 02, 2009 at 08:12 PM



“ *Very sorry for you loss. I have many fond memories of Ruff the town and Darlene and Rueben. Darlene and Rueben were very kind and loving people.##imported-begin##Gloria Schell Sutton##imported-end##*

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June 02, 2009 at 07:51 PM



“ *Sorry about your loss. I will always remember Rueben's sense of humor and generous heart. I will treasure the work he did for our family history as well.##imported-begin##Don and Betsy Ruff##imported-end##*

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June 02, 2009 at 12:26 PM



“ *Thinking of you all during this time of loss.  
Gene & Bonnie##imported-begin##Gene & Bonnie  
Polhamus##imported-end##*

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May 31, 2009 at 11:49 PM